



The Green Thumb

A Newsletter of Extension Horticultural Activities and Events
For York County Extension Volunteers

Vol.3, Issue 3
April 1, 2002

Calendar Of Events

Apr 3 rd ,	Wednesday	Using Office Resources to Respond to Call, 9:00am-Noon, Extension Office
Apr 9 th ,	Tuesday	Programming Meeting, 9:30am-Noon, St. Lukes room 21
Apr 9 th ,	Tuesday	Landscape Diagnostic Clinic, 6:30pm, Shady Bluff Pt. Skimino Landing Est. Wmbg.
Apr 10 th ,	Wednesday	Deadline for American Horticultural Society Membership, (See Article)
Apr 13 th ,	Saturday	Gardening 2002, 8:00am, Christopher Newport University, (See Article)
Apr 13 th ,	Saturday	Yorksapes Planting Project, 8:30am, Tabb Library, (See Article)
Apr 15 th ,	Monday	Green Thumb Deadline
Apr 18 th ,	Thursday	Landscape Diagnostic Clinic, 6:30pm, East Queens Dr., Queens Lake, Wmbg.
Apr 20 th ,	Saturday	York County Volunteer Appreciation Day, 11:30–2:00 p.m., Yorktown Middle School
Apr 24 th ,	Wednesday	Zuni Plant Buying Trip, 8:30am, (See Article)
Apr 24 th ,	Wednesday	Vegetable Garden Project, 9-11:00am, Mt. Vernon Elementary School, (See Article)
May 1 st ,	Wednesday	Landscape Diagnostic Clinic, 6:30pm, Port Cove, Olde Port Cove, Tabb
May 4 th ,	Saturday	Learning Garden Plant Sale, 9:00am-Noon, Learning Garden
May 7 th ,	Tuesday	Libby Oliver's Garden Tour, 8:00am from Extension Office Parking Lot, (See Article)
May 7 th ,	Tuesday	Peninsula Master Gardener Training planning meeting, 9:30 – 11:30 am, St. Luke's
May 7 th ,	Tuesday	Landscape Diagnostic Clinic, 6:30pm, Barn Swallow Ridge, Grafton Woods, Grafton
May 8 th ,	Wednesday	Garden Landscape Design Studies, 9:30am-Noon, Poquoson, (See Article)
May 15 th ,	Wednesday	Deadline Apron Orders (See Articles)
May 16 th ,	Thursday	Landscape Diagnostic Clinic, 6:30pm, Berry's Landing, off Dare Rd., Grafton
May 20 th -22 nd		Southeast Regional Master Gardener Conference, Raleigh, NC, (See Jim's Notes)
May 21 st -23 rd		Master Gardener Spring Study Trip, (See Article)
May 21 st ,	Tuesday	Landscape Diagnostic Clinic, 6:30pm, Valentine Circle, Lee's Village, Grafton
June 9 th ,	Sunday	Master Gardener Picnic, Look for details in May's Green Thumb
June 19 th -23 rd		Master Gardener College, Blacksburg, (See Jim's Notes)
July 16 th ,	Tuesday	Regional Master Gardener Picnic, 11am-2pm, Portsmouth Master Gardener Office

Thursdays Work/Learn Day in the Learning Garden 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

For additions/corrections to the Calendar of Events contact Jody at 890-4940 or Teresa Bennett at 875-0026, e-mail: BennettTeresaH@aol.com. The deadline for the Green Thumb is ALWAYS the 15th of the month, no exception.

E-mail changes: If you have changes to any of the methods of communication to you please notify Jody. Jody will pass the word. We want to keep in contact with you. These changes will be posted to the weekly e-mails and will be in the Green Thumb.

Master Gardener Mission Statement: *Our mission, as trained volunteers in partnership with the York County, Virginia Cooperative Extension Agent, is to provide horticultural educational opportunities to the public through research-based horticultural programs and activities to enhance our environment, lives and community.*

www.ext.vt.edu

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Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless, of race, color, religion, sex, age, veteran status, national origin, disability, or political affiliation. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

Jim's Notes

Don't forget **phone training** to be held on April 3, 9am-Noon, call the office to register. This class really does require 3 hours, so please be prompt.

Master Gardener College is scheduled for June 20-23. Registration dollars will be available. Watch the Green Thumb for details in May!

For more information on the **Southeast Regional Master Gardener Conference** check their website at <http://www.southeast-mastergardener.net> or contact Erv Evans at erv_evans@ncsu.edu or phone 919-515-5378

Terry's Notes

CONGRATULATIONS - Four of our 2001 Class Master Gardeners have received their 50 hour certificates. They are: Marilyn Moren - Pruning Coordinator, Larry Riddick - Pruning Clinic leader for many clinics, and Martha Wilkins and Ricki Noble - Horticultural Extravaganza co-coordinator. Their volunteer spirit has greatly enhanced our group. Great Work, Ladies and Gentleman!

TIME SHEETS - Dan Hawley, Time Sheet Guru, requests all time sheets be emailed to him (dhawley@erols.com), or delivered to the Extension Office. You can obtain an electronic time sheet copy at www.yorkcounty.gov/vce. Remember, if you are planning to attend Master Gardener College, volunteer hours can reduce your registration fee.

HORTICULTURAL THERAPY NEEDS A COORDINATOR - Horticultural Therapy is a very worthwhile program. This program brings great happiness to people who are now in convalescent facilities. It brings the outdoors in to them, helps with their hand coordination, and the small flower arrangements will add color to their bedrooms. Time spent for each session is 1 1/2 - 2 hours (included set up and clean up). Number of visits is usually once a month, except during the summer and facility locations would be established by the new coordinator. Arrangements are made in tops from detergent bottles. Flowers and greens are from YCMG gardens or donated from several businesses. Mary Frances Baker and Joanne Roberts have been Horticultural Therapy co-coordinators for many years; now they have new activities. However, they would be very willing to pass along "How-To" and supplies to the new coordinator. If you feel you have 2 hours per month to volunteer for this worthwhile program, please call Jim.

WORK APRONS - You can add a new embroidered clothing item to your wardrobe. The new item is a dark green heavy twill apron with an adjustable bib and three 8+"pockets at the hem. YCMG's round logo will be embroidered on the bib at the top right corner. You can have your apron personalized (pocket, below logo, etc.) for \$6.50.

MEDIUM: 24" long 28" wide (not including ties). Cost is \$16.50.

LARGE: 26" long, 30" wide (not including ties). Cost is \$18.00.

If you are interested in ordering the work apron at this time, send a check:

Payable to York County 4-H Activity Fund, mail to Evelyn Parker, 27 Dryden Drive, Poquoson, VA 23662.

Deadline is May 15, 2002. The next order will be in late November 2002.

REGIONAL MASTER GARDENER PICNIC -hosted by Portsmouth Master Gardeners

The date for the Regional Master Gardener Picnic has been set for Tuesday, July 16th from 11am-2pm at the Portsmouth Extension office.

Plan to bring a dish or something to share. As the date gets closer we will need to give them a count of those planning to attend. Look for more details in the next newsletter!

New email addresses

Mary Frances Baker - maryfrancesbaker@aol.com

Jackie Lohr - Rlohr@cox.net

Janis Erickson - ericksonjanis@msn.com

Joyce Shelton - joyceshelton@cox.net

The Green Thumb Newsletter is prepared for York County Extension Volunteers by



James Orband, Extension Agent/
Agriculture

and

Shirlee Kimmel, Extension Volunteer



HORTICULTURAL EXTRAVAGANZA 2002

As coordinators of this years' Horticultural Extravaganza we'd like to thank all of the volunteers who helped make this event such a success, especially the chairpersons of all the committees. We had 167 attendees and approximately 45 Master Gardeners who helped and attended sessions. The evaluations were overwhelmingly positive about everything from lunch to the speakers. The sessions done by our own Master Gardeners were the most popular. Congratulations to them for their hard work. We had lots of help for both set up and take down, Joyce, the church secretary said that the next day they couldn't even tell that we had been there. What great testimony for our clean up crew. Once again thanks to all who helped and of course to Jim and to Jody without whom none of this would be possible. Martha and Ricki

EXTRA, EXTRA READ ALL ABOUT IT!

Did you recently attend the Horticultural Extravaganza or a Pruning Clinic? Still have questions.... Why not check out the Library at the Extension Office. We have many new titles (some donations via Kathy Van Mullekom-Thank you very much). A list of the titles is in the Master Gardener Desk Reference book. Books are shelved alphabetically by categories first, then author. Just sign out in the Desk Reference book, under check-out. Please return the book in 3 weeks so others can share the knowledge. If anyone is interested in sending a book review or just your comments, please contact me at ericksonjanis@msn.com. Happy reading, Your 2002 Library Resource Coordinator, Janis

CNU GARDENING 2002

Don't forget Gardening 2002 on April 13th. Registration begins at 8am in the Student Center

9:00am - Welcome and announcements in Gaines Theater

9:15am - Dr. Bonnie Appleton, Keynote Speaker in Gaines Theater "Favorite Plants for Tidewater Gardens"

10:45am -Morning Workshops

11:45am -3:00pm - Flower arranging show in the Science Plaza, drawings, displays, booths & plant sales

12:00- Lunch

1:15pm - Afternoon workshops

2:30 PM Campus Garden Tours

Two moderators are still needed for this event. Please contact Barb Dunbar if you are interested. Phone 766-2174 or 269-2230, or email twotac@aol.com

Workshop speakers are: Dr. David Bankes - "Garden Sculpture" Jim Orband - "A Calendar of Garden Pests Through the Year" Wesley Greene - "Under the Knife" Charlotte Hundley - "A Rose for Every Home - A Bush for Every Garden" Billi Parus - "Herb Gardening - A Tasteful Pastime" Tony Esposito - "Vegetable Gardening"

YORKSCAPES PLANTING PROJECT AT THE TABB BRANCH

For any Master Gardeners not attending the CNU Gardening 2002, on April 13 please come to the Tabb Library to help with the planting of the Yorkscapes project. We will start at 8:30 AM by planting the design. Bring a shovel and gloves. Rain or Shine. We need you. Norma Jackson Normjack02@aol.com

SUNSHINE FUND

We established a "Sunshine Fund" several years ago. The purpose of it is to give a gift to master gardeners if they have an operation, long term illness, baby or death of immediate family member (cards are also sent). The price range is approximately \$25.00. Nine gifts were given last year. Contributions are collected at our monthly planning meetings and at our general membership meetings or you may give it anytime to Mary Frances Baker. If you know of anyone who is ill or lost a family member, please inform Mary Frances at (898-6773) or maryfrancesbaker@aol.com.

ZUNI TIME!

Zuni is a Presbyterian group home for mentally challenged young adults. To earn money they have a plant sale each spring and sell peanuts that are wonderful. There are several greenhouses full of bedding plants and one greenhouse full of beautiful Zonal Geraniums, yummy. Their 27th Annual Visitors Day will be April 27th this year so we want to get there before they sell out on that day. We are going on Wednesday April the 24th.

Leaving from Kiln Creek Parking lot meeting between the Amoco Station and Ben Franklin at 8:30 a.m. We will be leaving on time so if you are late we will be gone. In case that happens the directions on getting there follow. They do not need pots of any kind but do need plastic trays, might at least bring your own. **Directions to Zuni Presbyterian Homes:** Located off US Highway #460 between Ivor and Windsor. Turn on State Road #645 (Yellow Hammer Road). Proceed a mile to Stop sign and go straight on State Road #614 (Thomas Woods Trail) across bridge. Zuni is ¾ mile on right. Lots of places to eat over there and of course Smithfield Gardens make a great place to visit. Any questions e-mail or call me captmi@pinn.net or 868-8646. See you on the 24th, Eleanor Hill.

VEGETABLE GARDEN AT MT. VERNON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

This year's school vegetable garden project is taking place at Mt. Vernon Elementary. There are 99 enthusiastic 4th graders involved with the project and on March 13, the first lesson was held. The students planted lettuce seeds to be transplanted into their garden plot in April. The weather did not cooperate for the last part of the lesson, which was to plant seeds of chard, spinach, and peas directly into the garden so we will go back at a later date to do that with them. Our final two lessons will be April 24 from 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. and June 5, time TBA. The last date is the culmination of the project for this year, where the children will eat what they have harvested. If you would like to help on April 24 or June 5, please call Rene' Kauder at 868-9606. My thanks go to John Dickens, Cheryl Guardia, Janet Lederbuhr, Denise Smith, Karen Ward, Beth Saunders, Marie Pannone, and Janis Erickson for their help with the first lesson. Without them, it would not have been possible! Again, call Rene' Kauder if you'd like to help.

MASTER GARDENER SPRING STUDY TRIP FOR MAY

I am still working on our spring study trip. At this point we have decided to head north and our first stop will be Ladew Topiary Gardens. <http://www.ladewgardens.com/> From there we will continue to Chanticleer in Wayne, Pennsylvania <http://www.chanticleergarden.org/> Please check these sites out, you will be pleased. The projected plan is the week of May 20th, probably leaving here Tuesday morning May the 21st and returning late evening on Thursday May 23rd. From there we have several picks of marvelous gardens in the Philadelphia area but we are still working on which ones depending on time and distance. We will be gone two nights and three full days. We are hoping to use at least the 12 passenger county van and others may carpool. Non-Master Gardeners are welcome but cannot ride in the van or vans because of insurance purposes. I will keep you posted as plans continue. Eleanor Hill 868-8646 or captmi@pinn.net

MAY 7TH GARDEN TOUR-LIBBEY OLIVER'S GARDEN

Libby Oliver has invited us to tour her private garden. Ms. Oliver has written several books on gardening and is retired from Colonial Williamsburg as flower arranger and presently manages the Farmer's Market in Williamsburg. We need to be at her home between 8:30 and 8:45 a.m. on Tuesday May 7th. We will be gathering in the Extension Office parking lot and leaving by 8:00 a.m. to carpool to her home in Queens Lake. After we leave Libby Oliver's garden we will travel to Carol Wilson's garden in Lightfoot for a short tour. Libby said she would be able to give us 45 minutes in her garden and I have scheduled Carol's garden for between 10 am and 10:15 a.m. Then of course we can find some place nice for lunch. Call me if you have questions. We do not need to make a list of who is going, just show up! Eleanor 868-8646 or captmi@pinn.net

THE AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The American Horticultural Society has made a special offer to York County Master Gardeners for a reduced one year membership of \$10.00. Normal yearly membership is \$35.00. The American Horticultural Society is willing to offer this great rate to us, one time, if we can provide them with a list of names of interested Master Gardeners. They will accept this list as an order for Membership and send each of the people on a list the bill for \$10.00, in this way you can pay the American Horticultural Society directly. The Membership to this Virginia based, not-for-profit organization includes a fabulous bimonthly magazine, a seed exchange and access to various botanical gardens throughout the United States (including the Norfolk Botanical Garden) for free! We have 23 Master Gardeners signed up already for this opportunity and request that any other interested Master Gardeners send their names/email addresses/ mailing addresses to Nial Quinlan (nialq@aol.com) who is compiling the list. To make this work all names need to be submitted before April 15th, so the deadline for name submission to Nial Quinlan is April 10th. If you have any further questions, please email Nial Quinlan.

THERE'S NO BUSINESS LIKE MOW BUSINESS

As you read this article, we will be finishing up our series of classes on lawn mowing for our youth. The class has been a resounding success. We have had over twenty students sign up for the class, and they are referring friends who want to sign up for next year. We are considering continuing with this class by conducting a "Lawn Lab--Lessons Learned " later on in the season.

The first class was all about SAFETY. Students learned about proper mowing attire, ear and eye protection, and the do's and don'ts of fueling, checking and running a mower. Students met "Dumb Dude", a ventriloquist's dummy clad in sandals, shorts, and baggy shirt, which thought he was ready to mow. We followed with Teri's "Little Lawn of Horrors", real life stories and pictures to scare kids into being careful. We were graced by Jim Orband's first-hand account of his mowing mishap. We were lucky to have Master Gardener Margie Tully and her husband, Scot teach our second class. They gave a dynamic power point presentation and got all the kids participating with ideas for defining and naming their businesses. The third class was a field trip to a lawn mower repair shop. Just as last year, Dave Cianelli gave a wonderful talk on the parts of the lawn mower, maintenance and repair. Dave also shared his own childhood lawn business experiences and wisdom about developing good customer relations. In the last class students learned the basics about types of grass and weeds, seeding, fertilizing and mulching. More importantly, they learned where to go to find answers. We finished with a test and certificates. The students really seem enthusiastic about this program. Look for a 4-H Lawn Graduate to help with your lawn. These kids are "a cut above " the rest. Terry Cheslak, Coordinator

LEARNING GARDEN SPRING PLANT SALE

Mark this date on your calendar - Saturday, May 4th. The Learning Garden is having its annual spring plant sale from 9 - 12 and your help is needed. Please bring any plants you would like to donate to the Learning Garden by May 2nd if possible. This is an ideal time to divide your perennials to bring to the sale. Some requested plants from the public were Hellebores (Lenten Rose), Heuchera (Coral Bells), Dicentra (Bleeding Heart), Echinacea Purpurea (Purple Coneflower), ferns and hostas. It would be great to start perennials and annuals from seed for the plant sale. If anyone has plants, but no time to "pot them up", they can bring them to the Learning Garden any Thursday morning in April and we'll pot them. Please make sure the plants are labeled: name, sun/shade/part sun, and any other info you can provide. If you need name tags or any other information contact Mary Frances Baker at (898-6773) or maryfrancesbaker@aol.com

GARDEN LANDSCAPE DESIGN STUDIES

"Learning Through Visits" Program Tours 6 Gardens

Jim Orband has approved this year's program of Garden Landscape Design Studies, which will visit six area gardens. This annual study program is designed to provide advanced education in landscape design principles for York County Master Gardeners. There is no charge for these Wednesday morning visits, which will run from 9:30 until noon on four dates in May, June, and July. Those wishing to participate must register with Jody at the York Extension Office (phone: 890-4940). The first visit will be May 8 to the gardens of Audrey Rae and Steve Hinderliter in Poquoson. Their 4-acre garden includes a variety of trees, shrubs and mixed perennials. There also is a lotus pond, a bog garden, and a Japanese shade garden. Raised berms have solved problems with tidewater flooding and standing water. On Wednesday, June 19, we will visit two private gardens near Williamsburg. Jim Orband and Clark Dewing, Owner, Dare Landscape & Design will be guides. Some of us visited one of these gardens two years ago. This will be an opportunity to see the maturing of an excellent design. There also will be a brief visit to a nearby home with extensive plantings of ornamental grasses. Wednesday, July 17, will feature visits to the gardens of Norma Jackson in Coventry, and Evelyn Parker in Poquoson. The Jackson garden is sited on a small, but attractively-planted town house – an example of a small space with a design from the beginning. The Parker garden has full-sun exposure with an excellent entrance design, perennial borders, a pond, and effective screening of neighbors. The garden program will conclude on Wednesday, July 31, with a visit to the garden of Janet and Charles Ledebuhr in Seaford. This design illustrates planning for gardening with salt-tolerant plants. Rae and Steve Hinderliter, the M.G. coordinators for the 2002 Summer Landscape Series will provide maps and additional details for each garden visit.

THE SHARP SHEARS

Hi there, Master Gardeners! Just a quick update on the Pruning Team's activities as our season comes to a close. Thanks to all the Team Members for being so helpful and supportive of the Team's activities and so willing to help out whenever and wherever they could. Many positive comments have come to me on the good job done and I see them as the fruition of all YOUR good work this year. Many thanks to these Pruning Team Members who were Leads, Assistants and Helpers: Karen Ward, Larry Riddick, Carl Ennis, Mike Deibler, Rae Hinderliter, Steve Hinderliter, Joanne Andrews, Helen Janele, Jim Orband, John Dickens, Joanne Roberts, Margaret Cotton, Joyce Shelton, Evelyn Parker, Jackie Lohr, Brenda Dearborn, Rene Kauder, Martha Wilkins, Marie Panone, Nial Quinlan, Cathy Wells, Sheryl Roberts, Libby Carlson, Nancy Coy, Eleanor Hill, Diane Short, Angie Large, and Kathleen Ward. Special thanks to the Pruning Logistics Team: Lana Rackley, Brenda Dearborn, Rene Kauder, Larry Riddick, and Joyce Shelton. These were the folks who put together all those training folders and packets!

The Pruning Team provided twelve Pruning Clinics of which one was for an AARP Group, one for Norfolk Master Gardener Tree Stewards, one for the current Master Gardener class in Norfolk, one for the Virginia Beach Flower and Garden Show, one specifically for pruning fruit trees, one for a Women's Club, one for our new Home Gardener Program, two were held at area businesses, and three clinics were provided at private home sites, we were part of an advanced pruning training for Henrico County Master Gardeners.

The greatest Thank You goes from all the Team and me to Jim Orband, our Extension Agent, who made this all possible for the Pruning Team by providing in-depth training and Pruning Practice Sessions for the Pruning Team members. Also thanks go to Jody for her help in the office getting us started on our way.

Three volunteers from the Pruning Team have signed up for the October Master Gardener Training at New Quarter Park in the Queens Lake area. About fourteen more volunteers are needed from the Pruning Team. Soon as the date is decided it will be made available to you. Please contact me at 259-0095, or mmoren@widomaker.com.

See you in October and in the meantime, **KEEP THOSE SHEARS SHARP!**

Marilyn Moren, Pruning Team Coordinator.